

## Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 /071 W

----- 010980

R 172145Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4848

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 6345

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CI, PFOR, SW

SUBJ:RACKET POLITICS

1. DAVIS CUP TENNIS MATCHES TO BE PLAYED IN BAASTAD, SWEDEN, BETWEEN CHILE AND HOST COUNTRY, HAVE TAKEN ON A POLITICAL DIMENSION. REACTING TO REPORTS THAT MANY IN SWEDEN ARE PROTESTING MATCHES FOR POLITICAL REASONS, AND THAT LIVES OF CHILEAN PLAYERS MAY BE IN DANGER, HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE IS BILLING MATCHES AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL HONOR -- CHILE AGAINST THE BAD GUYS. ONE SENSATIONALIST CARTOON HAS CHILEAN PLAYERS HITTING BALLS TO RUSSIAN BEAR NAMED SWEDEN, AND SERIES OF ARTICLES HAS BEEN APPEARING (DATELINED STOCKHOLM) WHICH DEPICT SWEDEN AS LITTLE MORE THAN MARXIST SATELLITE OF SOVIET UNION.

2. TOP SEEDED CHILEAN PLAYER JAIME FILLOL IS A PARTICULAR CASE. HE IS NOT POLITICALLY ACTIVE BUT HAS BEEN FEATURED AS ONE OF CHILEAN YOUTHS SUPPORTING THE JUNTA. HIS SHORT LIVED INITIAL DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE THEREFORE CREATED A FUROR HERE. PUBLIC OPINION RAN STRONGLY AGAINST HIM, AND GOC, AT LEAST IMPLICITLY, HELPED TO PERSUADE HIM TO PLAY. GOC-SPONSORED NATIONAL YOUTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARIAT LEADER CONTACTED FILLOL (THEN IN LOS

ANGLES) TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO PLAY, AND PRESIDENT PINOCHET TOLD PRESS THAT, ALTHOUGH HE COULD UNDERSTAND FILLOL'S CONCERN FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY, A SOLDIER WOULD GO.

3. COMMENT: CHILEAN PLAYERS ARE NOW GOING TO SWEDEN TO DEFEND CHILE'S HONOR IN A MATCH CHILE CANNOT FROM ITS OWN POLITICAL STANDPOINT LOSE. IF THEY WIN, CHILEANS WILL VIEW THE VICTORY AS A DEFEAT FOR THE MARXIST CONSPIRACY AGAINST CHILE. IF THEY LOSE, IT WILL BE BECAUSE THE ENVIRONMENT MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR A FAIR TEST OF SKILL TO TAKE PLACE. GOC SUPPORTERS SEE THIS AS ANOTHER FORAY IN CONTINUING BATTLE WITH THE ENEMY.  
POPPER

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NNN

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